



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Francisco Bay Region



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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TRIENNIAL REVIEW

WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN, SAN FRANCISCO BAY BASIN

September 24, 2004

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Water Board) will conduct a public hearing to present a technical report and tentative resolution adopting the 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review. The technical report contains a listing of proposed Basin Plan water quality issues that may be investigated and addressed through Basin Plan amendments over the next three years, excluding TMDL developments underway. The Basin Plan is the master policy document that contains descriptions of the legal, technical, and programmatic bases of water quality regulation in the San Francisco Bay Region, including water quality standards.

California Water Code sections 13143 and 13240 require that state policy for water quality control and water quality control plans (Basin Plans) be reviewed periodically. Federal law (Clean Water Act Section 303(c)(1)) requires that a state's water quality standards be reviewed every three years. This "triennial review" is a formal action requiring a Water Board to adopt a resolution. Since the last public notice, the State Water Resources Control Board has indicated that the Triennial Review is not a Basin Plan amendment, but rather a work plan for upcoming Basin Plan amendments, describing proposed allocation of available Basin planning staff resources for the next three years (i.e., work plan). The last update of the Basin planning work plan occurred in April 2001.

The public hearing on the Basin Plan Triennial Review will be held at the Water Board's regular monthly meeting:

DATE: Wednesday November 17, 2004
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Elihu M. Harris State Building
1st Floor Auditorium
1515 Clay Street
Oakland, California 94612

The public hearings will be conducted in accordance with 23 Cal. Code of Regs. § 649.3. Time limits may be imposed on oral testimony at the public hearings; groups are encouraged to designate a spokesperson.

Initial written comments on the Triennial Review from the public were accepted during a period from May 5, 2004 to June 18, 2004. Water Board staff also conducted a public workshop on June 8, 2004. During the workshop and comment period the public had the opportunity to comment on the Triennial Review process and the Basin Plan, as well as recommend Basin Plan issues for investigation. Following a review of all issues submitted the Water Board developed a technical report and tentative resolution describing a prioritized list of Basin Plan issues.

The 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review Tentative Resolution, technical report, minutes of the public workshop, and supporting documents, will be available at the Water Board web site www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/basinplan.htm beginning no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday September 24, 2004. These documents can also be accessed at the Water Board office, at the above address, on weekdays during business hours beginning Monday September 27, 2004.

All evidence, testimony (except rebuttal testimony) and exhibits proposed to be offered at the hearing must be submitted in writing to the Water Board staff contact no later than October 25, 2004 in order to be considered by the Water Board. Copies of general vicinity maps or large and non-technical photographs are not required to be submitted prior to the hearing. Non-evidentiary policy statements to be made at the hearing need not be submitted in advance. Water Board staff will respond to timely submitted written comments.

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Staff will consider written comments and respond and/or make revisions to the technical report as appropriate, and prepare the final technical report for Water Board adoption. The tentative resolution may be revised to reflect public comment and Regional Board direction. At the November 17, 2004 public hearing, the Water Board will deliberate and consider adoption of the 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review Tentative Resolution. Additional or alternative Basin Plan issues consistent with the general purpose of the 2004 Basin Plan Triennial Review Tentative Resolution and complementary to the specific prioritized list of Basin Plan issues attached to the resolution, will be considered, or may be developed at the hearing as a logical outgrowth of the testimony (i.e., allows changes to be made at the hearing).

A map and directions to the hearing are available on the RWQCB web site at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/direction.htm>. The location of the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact the Executive Assistant at least 5 working days before the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.